

App. No. 10/660044
Office Action Dated June 23, 2004
Amd. Dated September 23, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-8 are pending.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-8.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. This rejection is rendered moot, as claims 9 and 10 have been canceled. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

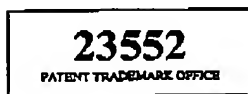
Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones (US 5,879,209). This rejection is rendered moot, as claims 9 and 10 have been canceled. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be directed to the attorney-of-record, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. No. 29,165, at (612) 336.4722 or the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 23, 2004

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Douglas P. Mueller", written over a horizontal line.

Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

CBH:DPM:smm